Virtual Forum

July 30, 2020

CONNECT
Arlington
SUSTAINABLE
TRANSPORTATION PLAN

TOWN OF ARLINGTON MASSACHUSETTS

NELSON NYGAARD

Tonight's Meeting

01 | Zoom Meeting Guidelines and Format

02 | Connect Arlington Overview

03 | Q & A

04 | Breakout Groups

05 | Report Out & Discussion

Zoom Meeting Guidelines and Format

- Everyone is muted by default.

- Participants will not be able to share their screen.

- The chat function is enabled for questions – chats will go to the host.

- The meeting is being recorded and will be posted to the Town's website by early the following week for additional participation after the meeting and for those who could not attend.

- Participants may raise their hand via Zoom to ask a question specifically during the two Open Q&A segments of the forum. They will be called on in the order that the hands are raised. Town staff will unmute them and call on them to speak.

- Zoom overview:
  - Mute and unmute buttons are in the lower left corner of the Zoom screen
  - Raise hand feature: Go to the Participants list, and the raise hand feature is on the lower right, under the list of participants.
  - For people calling in by phone, *9 controls mute/unmute and *6 is to raise your hand.
  - It is preferred that people turn on their video during Q & A and the breakout groups, so it is more like a conversation, but it is not required.

zoom

Connect Arlington Project Goals

- 20-year vision for the development of the transportation system in Arlington with a focus on improvements to existing system, equity, new technologies, and other innovations

- Builds upon Traffic & Circulation section of the Master Plan and other existing Town policies for Complete Streets and Traffic Rules and Regulations

- Develop priorities and recommendations for projects, programs, and policies

- Covers all aspects of transportation: walking, biking, public transit, driving, micromobility
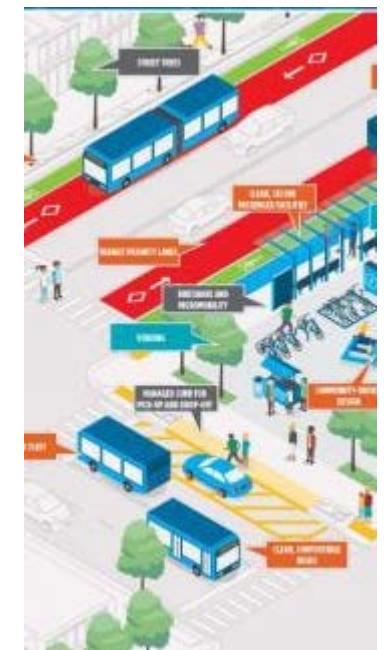
Plan Development & Engagement

- Nelson\Nygaard lead consultant on project
- First tasks:
  - Collect existing conditions data for development of Transportation Fact Book
  - Develop Engagement Strategy
- Engagement & Public Outreach
  - Sustainable Transportation Plan Advisory Committee (STPAC)
  - Virtual Roundtable Focus Groups focused on Key Transportation Topics (Transportation for All Ages, Biking & Walking, Sustainability, Getting Around with Disabilities, Public Transit, Neighborhood Travel) – more in August
  - Transportation Survey –open from May to July
  - Online input map (a.k.a. wikimap)
  - Doorhangers and Survey hotline
  - Virtual Forums

TOWN OF ARLINGTON
SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION PLAN
RFP #19-50
November 5, 2019

NELSON NYGAARD

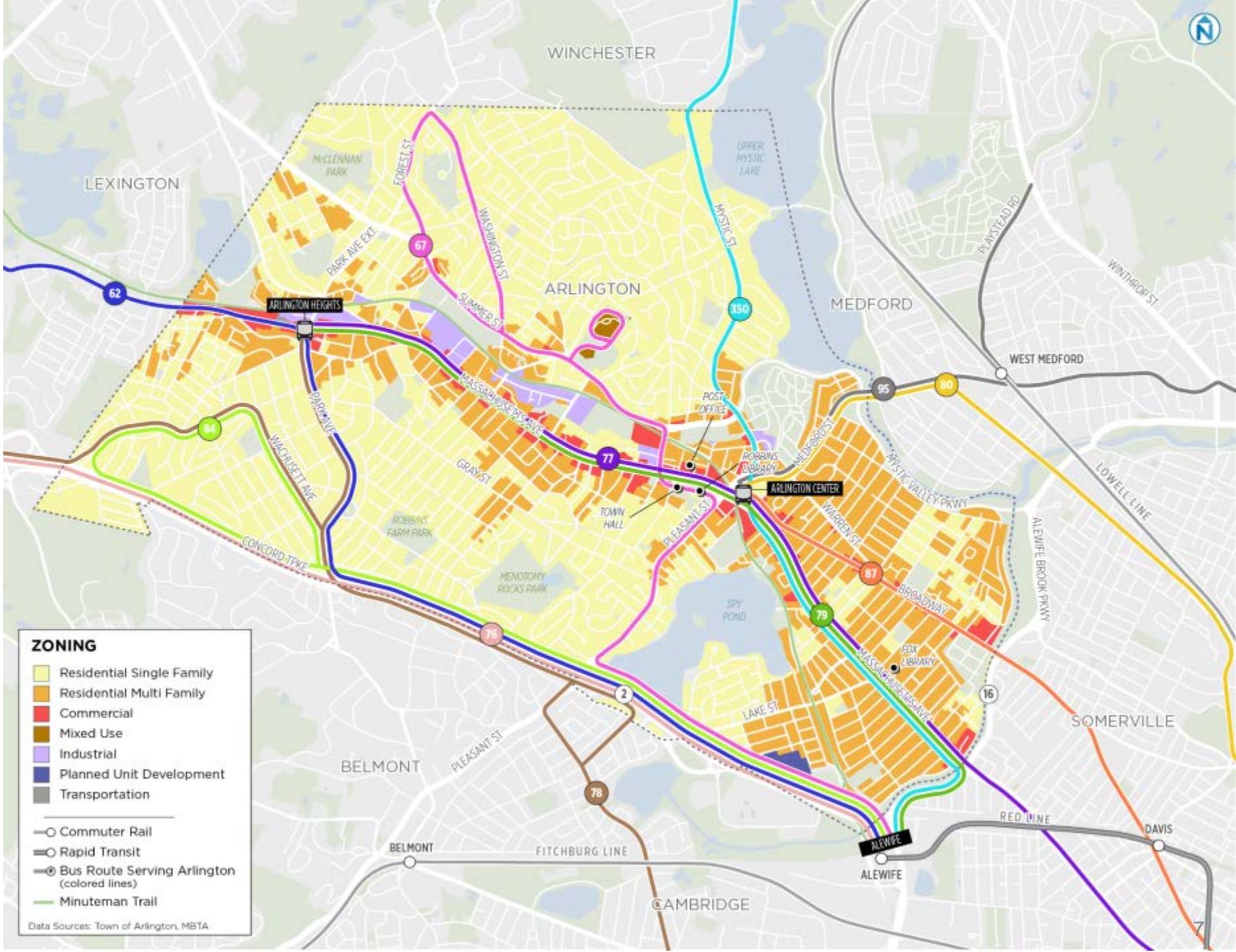# What have we learned so far?

Work-to-Date & Transportation Fact Book

Geography influences land use, which influences transportation choice

Flatter areas include higher density housing and commercial activity.

Hilly areas tend to be single family in character.

Transit corridors (and Minuteman Trail…a former rail right of way) run through valley.

ZONING

- Residential Single Family
- Residential Multi Family
- Commercial
- Mixed Use
- Industrial
- Planned Unit Development
- Transportation

—○ Commuter Rail
═○ Rapid Transit
═◉ Bus Route Serving Arlington (colored lines)
— Minuteman Trail

Data Sources: Town of Arlington, MBTA

How topography shapes Arlington's transportation

Land use patterns reflect topography, as do transportation corridors.

SLOPE OF STREETS
Percent Rise

- < 1%
- 1 - 2.5%
- 2.5 - 5%
- 5 - 10%
- 10% +

- Elementary School
- Middle School
- High School
- Private School

- Commuter Rail
- Rapid Transit
- Minuteman Trail

Data Sources: USGS Digital Elevation Model
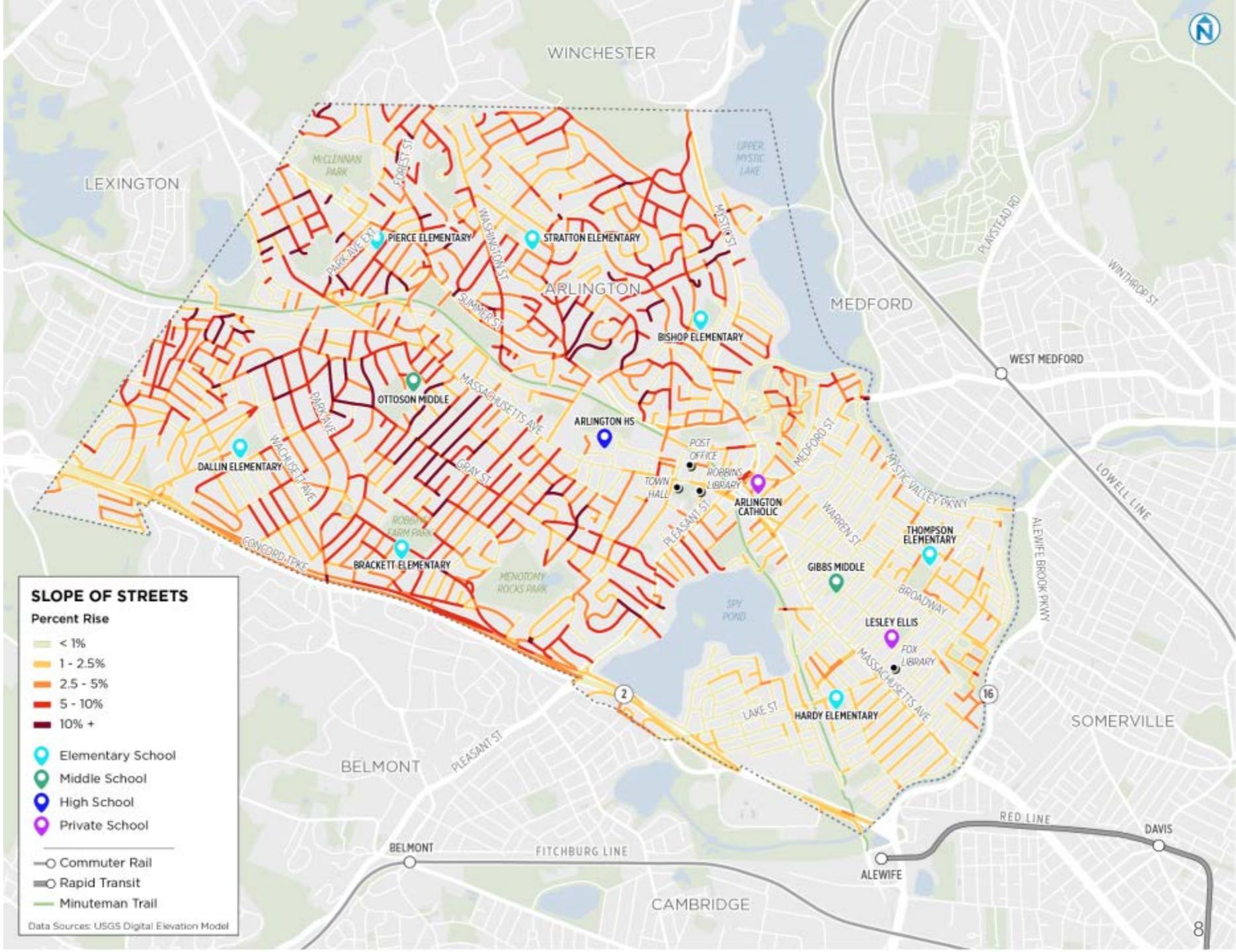
Traffic volumes

Historical volumes highlight which routes are most used.

- Local Streets channel drivers to:

- Collectors like Summer Street and Park Street, which connect to:

- Arterials like Mass Ave, Medford Street and Pleasant Street, which lead to

- Highways like Route 2 and to the north, I-95/Rte 128 and the region.

AVERAGE DAILY TRAFFIC
- 6,000 - 15,000
- 15,000 - 30,000
- 30,000 - 50,000
- 50,000 - 80,000
- No Data

- Commuter Rail
- Rapid Transit
- Minuteman Trail

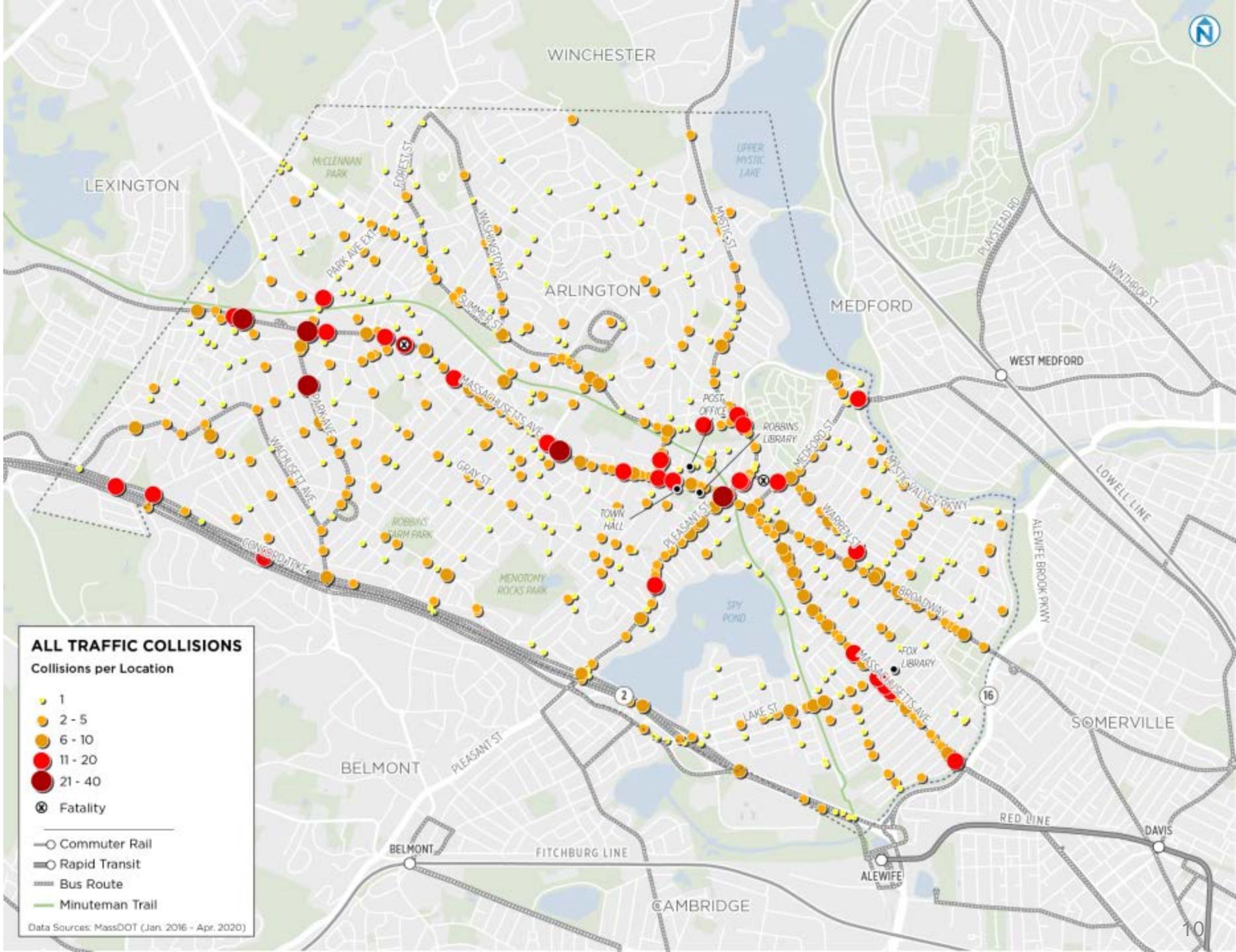Data Sources: ESRI Kalibrate Technologies (2019 Q4)
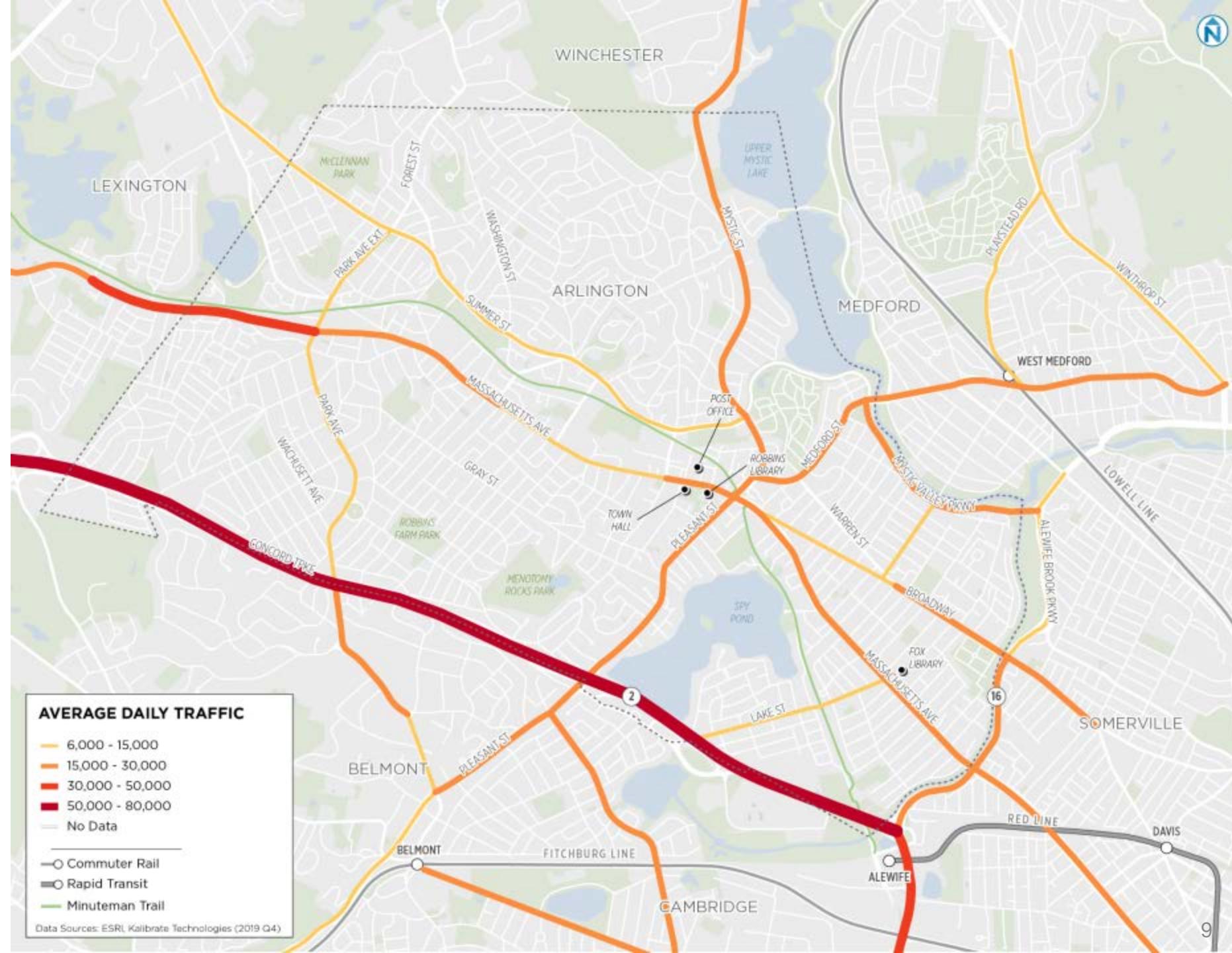
All Traffic Collisions

1,996 crashes recorded between January, 2016 and April, 2020.

Includes most recent fatal crashes at Chestnut St and Chestnut Terrace and Mass Ave and Appleton as well.

Although most crashes are clustered along major streets like Mass Ave and Broadway, there are many crashes recorded in the neighborhoods.

ALL TRAFFIC COLLISIONS
Collisions per Location

- 1
- 2 - 5
- 6 - 10
- 11 - 20
- 21 - 40
- ⊗ Fatality

─○ Commuter Rail
═○ Rapid Transit
⋯○ Bus Route
── Minuteman Trail

Data Sources: MassDOT (Jan. 2016 - Apr. 2020)

Commuting patterns: Where Arlington residents work

WORK LOCATIONS OF PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN ARLINGTON

Low Density — High Density

— Minuteman Trail
— Commuter Rail
— Rapid Transit

Data Sources: 2017 LEHD
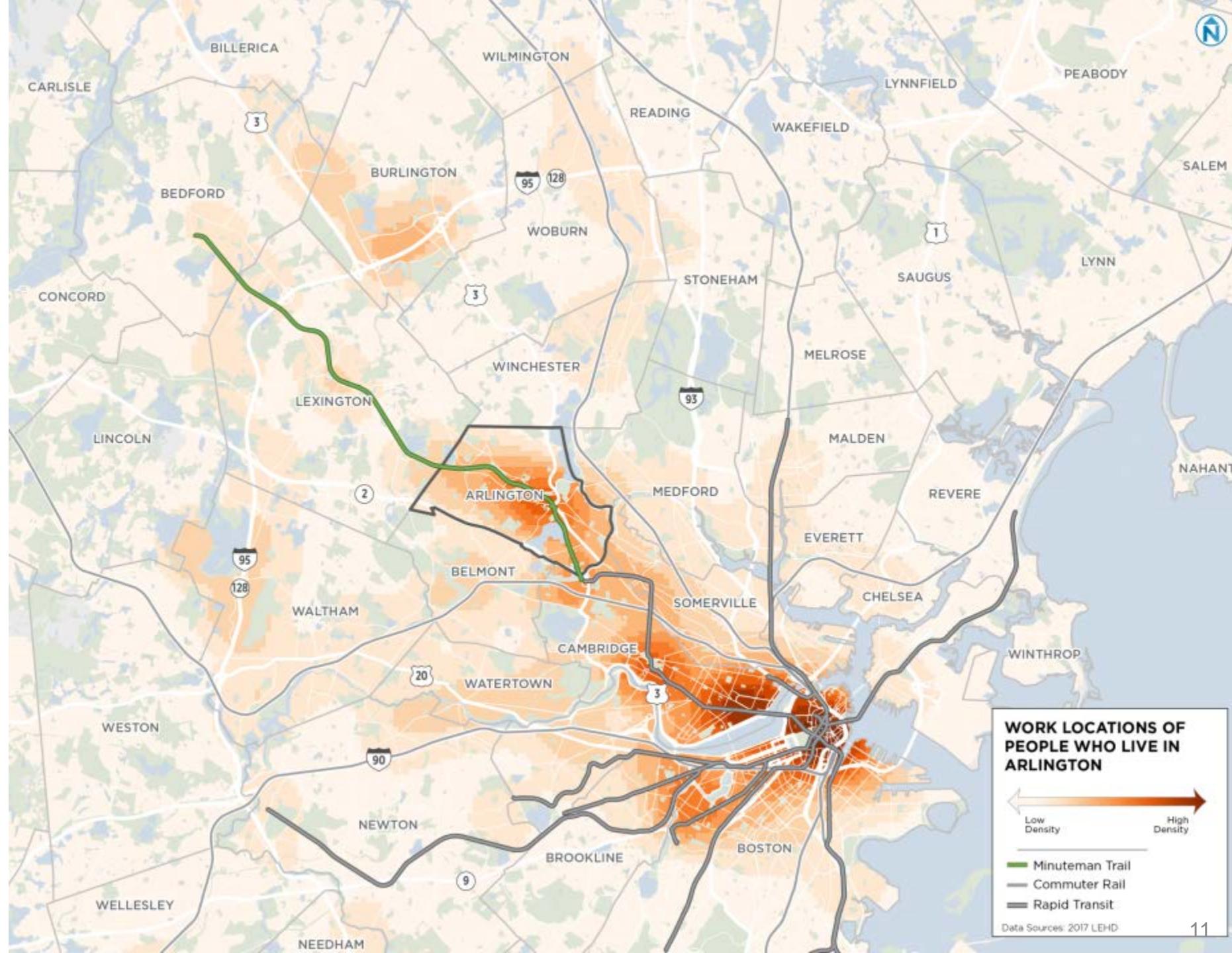
Where non-driving commuters live

DENSITY OF COMMUTERS WHO DO NOT DRIVE

People per Acre by Census Block Group

- < 1
- 1 - 2
- 2 - 4
- 4 - 8
- 8+

○ Commuter Rail
○ Rapid Transit
Bus Route
Minuteman Trail

Data Sources: 2018 ACS 5-Year Survey
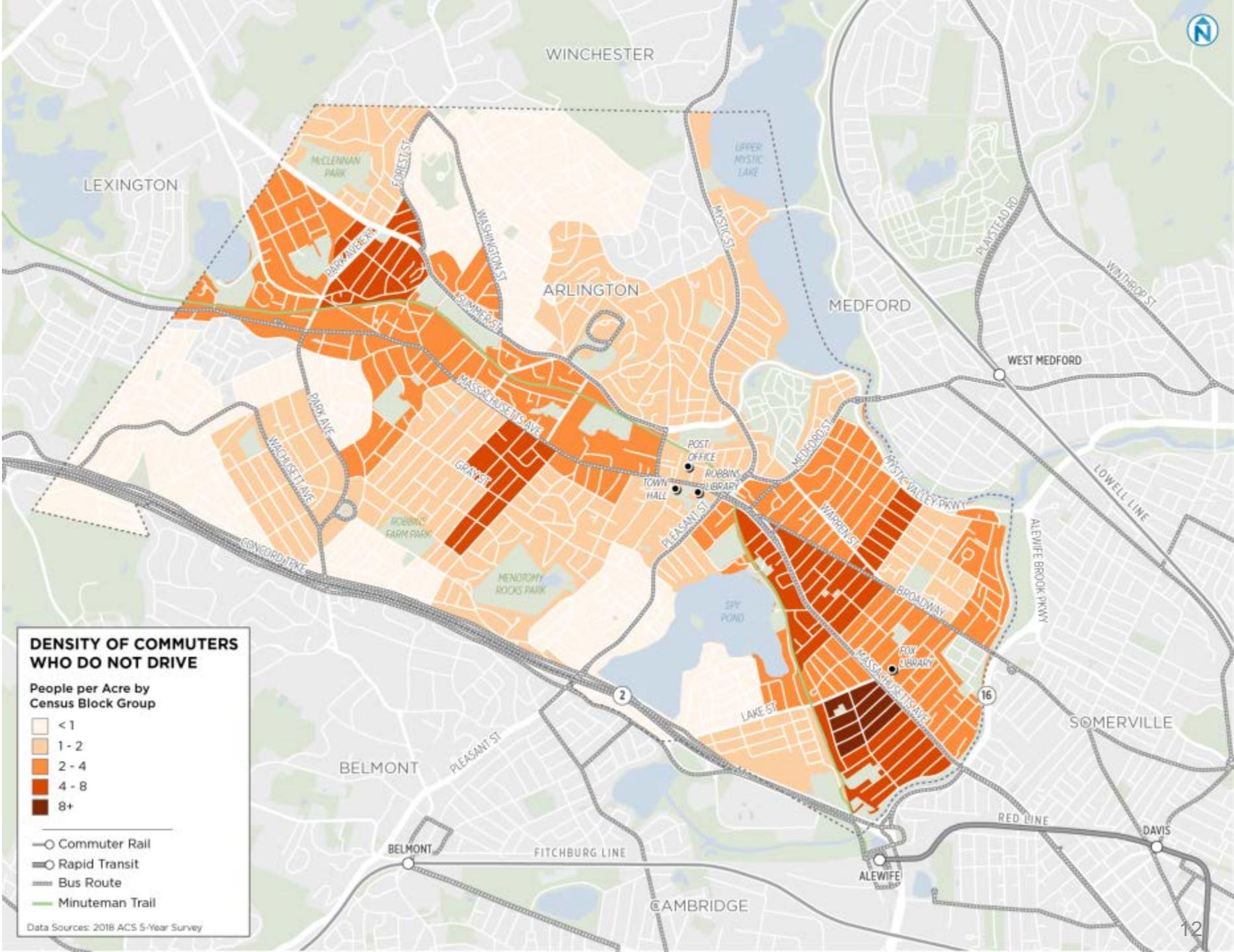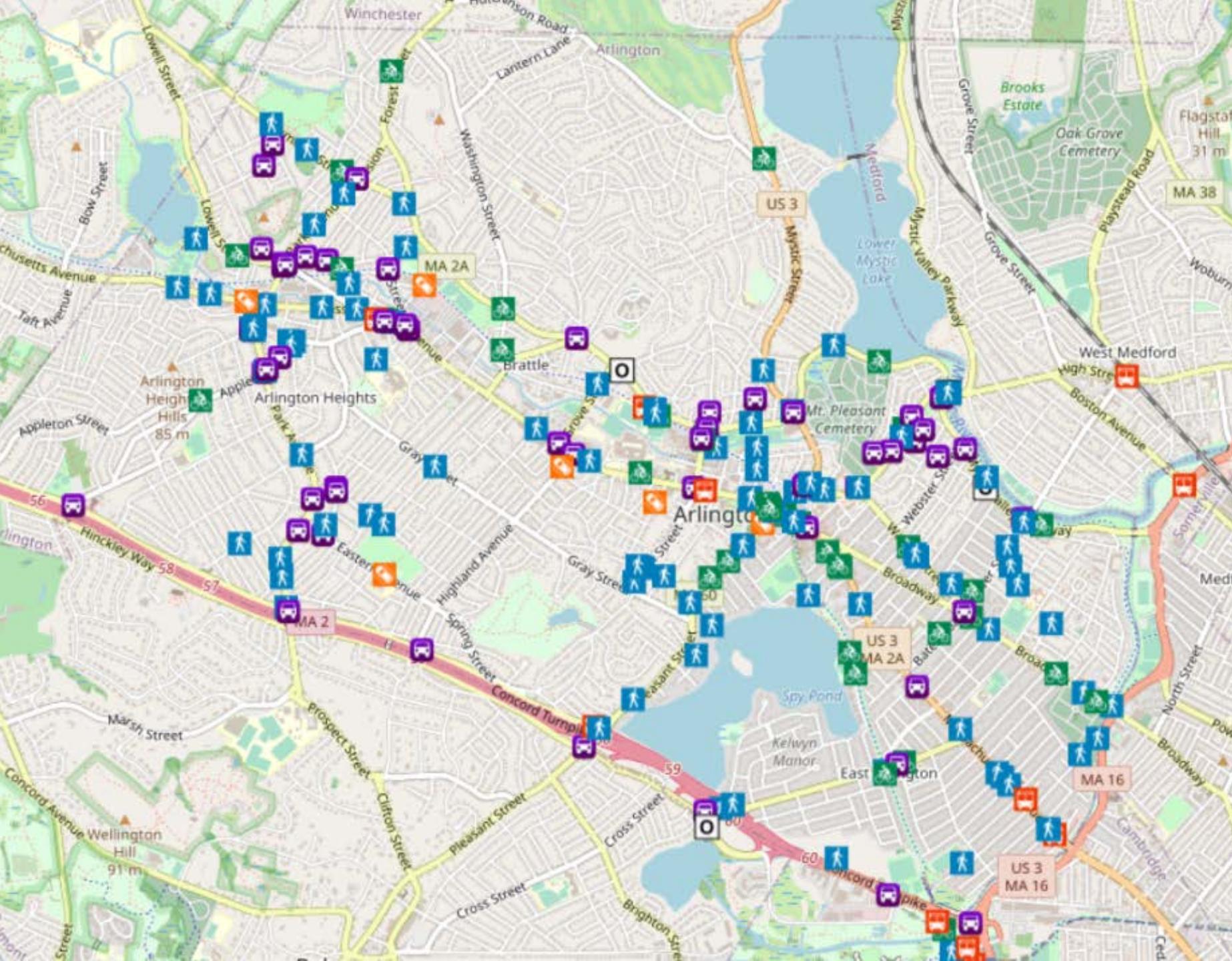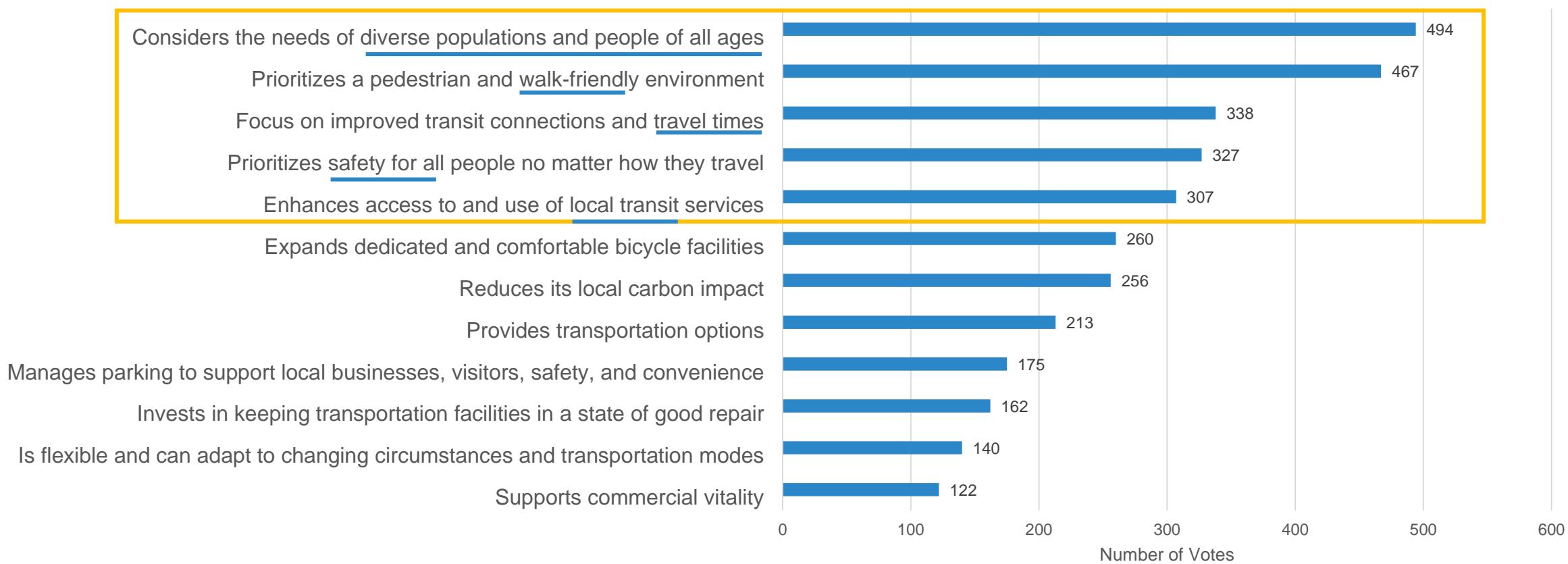
Your Travel and Transportation Input
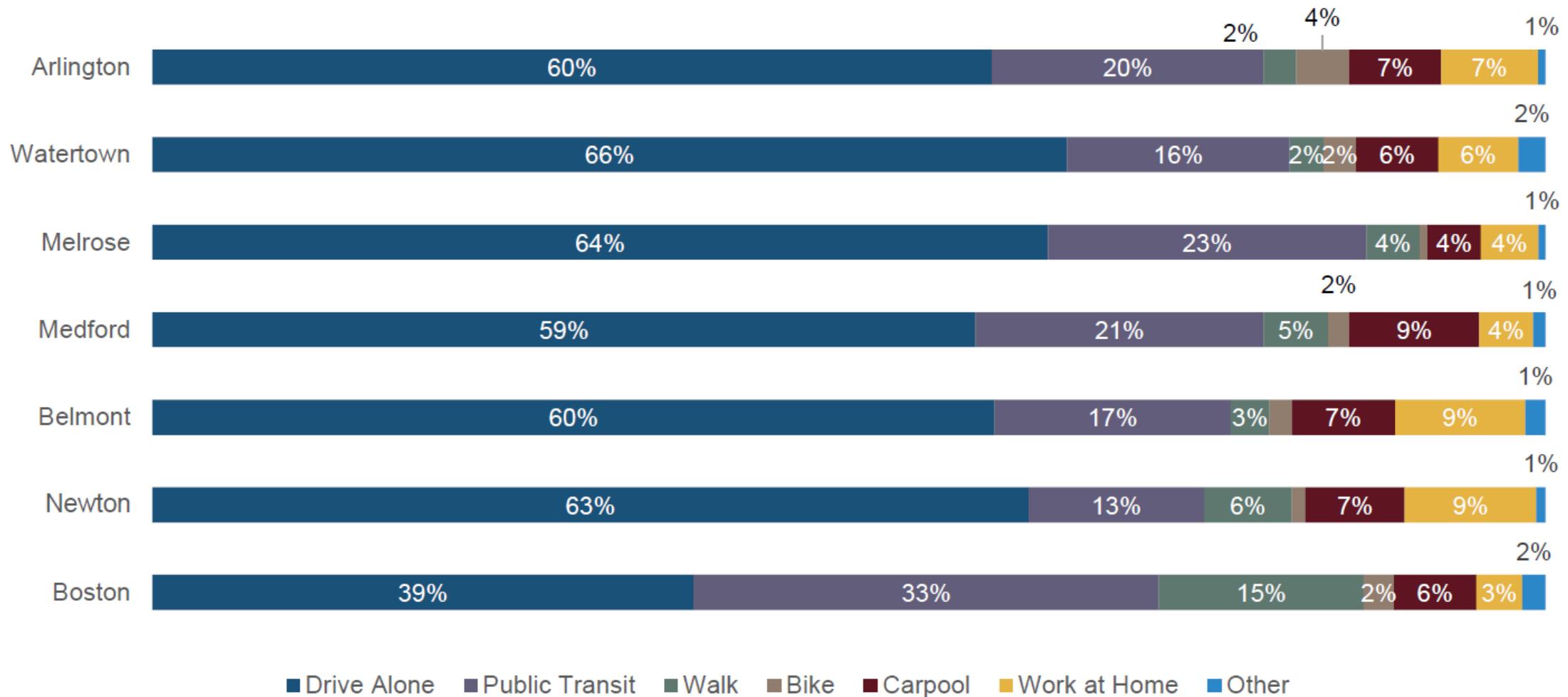
Transportation Feedback Map

Survey Respondents Prioritize Diverse Populations, People of All Ages, and a Walk-Bike-Transit-Friendly Environment

Transportation plays many roles in supporting Arlington's future - help us prioritize which are most important to you.
Please pick your top THREE (3) goals for Arlington's transportation system.

Goal	Number of Votes
Considers the needs of diverse populations and people of all ages	494
Prioritizes a pedestrian and walk-friendly environment	467
Focus on improved transit connections and travel times	338
Prioritizes safety for all people no matter how they travel	327
Enhances access to and use of local transit services	307
Expands dedicated and comfortable bicycle facilities	260
Reduces its local carbon impact	256
Provides transportation options	213
Manages parking to support local businesses, visitors, safety, and convenience	175
Invests in keeping transportation facilities in a state of good repair	162
Is flexible and can adapt to changing circumstances and transportation modes	140
Supports commercial vitality	122

Number of Votes

How Arlington travels compared to nearby communities

Figure 5-4   Arlington Peer Comparison: Mode

Community	Drive Alone	Public Transit	Walk	Bike	Carpool	Work at Home	Other
Arlington	60%	20%	2%	4%	7%	7%	1%
Watertown	66%	16%	2%	2%	6%	6%	2%
Melrose	64%	23%	4%		4%	4%	1%
Medford	59%	21%	5%	2%	9%	4%	1%
Belmont	60%	17%	3%		7%	9%	1%
Newton	63%	13%	6%		7%	9%	1%
Boston	39%	33%	15%	2%	6%	3%	2%

Legend: ■ Drive Alone ■ Public Transit ■ Walk ■ Bike ■ Carpool ■ Work at Home ■ Other

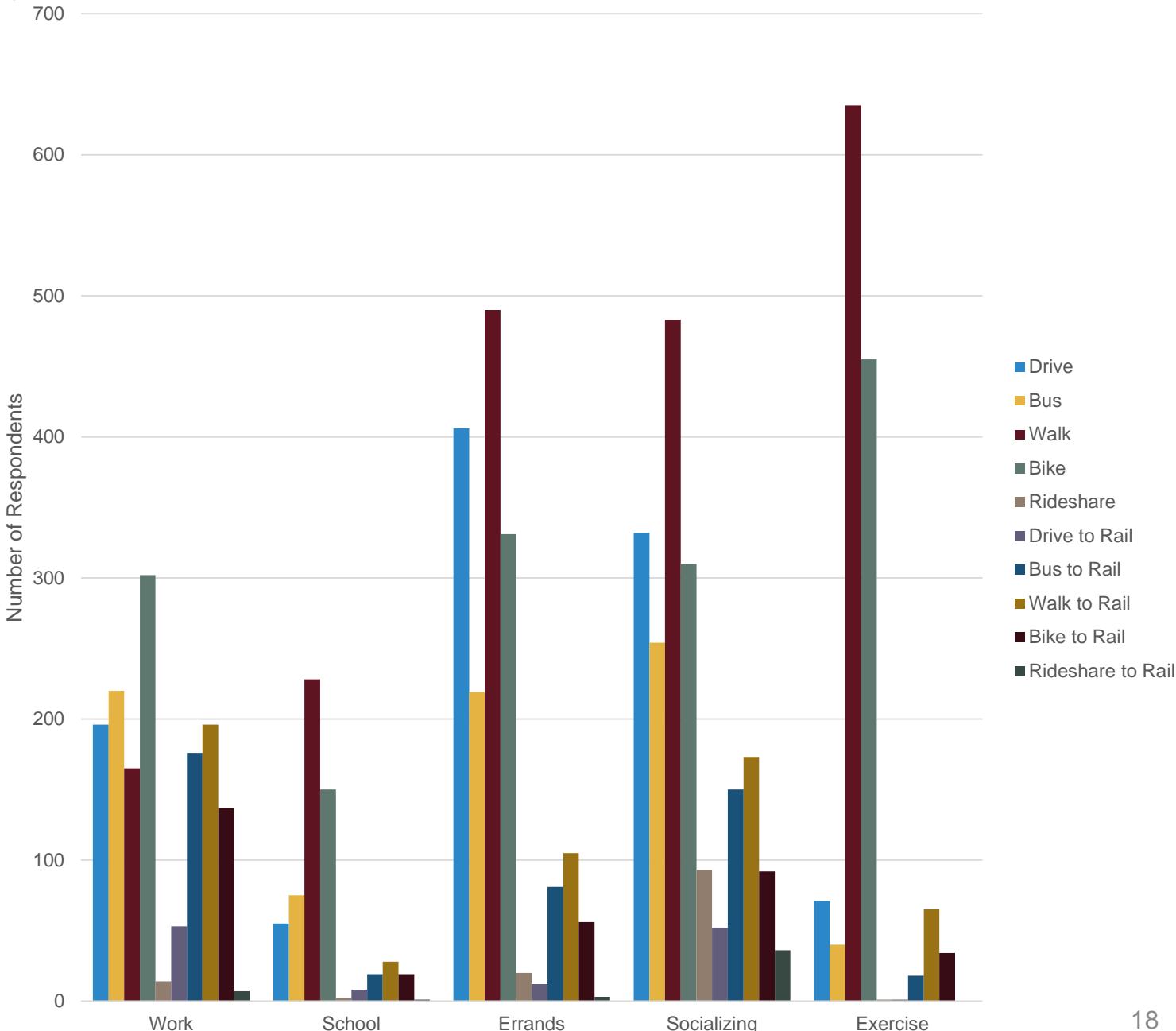# Respondents Mostly Drive or Walk for Non-Commute Trips

- Most currently drive or walk to get to school, run errands, or socialize

- Socializing trips have the largest share of rideshare trips

- Transit is not used as much for non-commute travel but, of those, is used most for social extracurriculars

How do you typically travel for non-commute trips?

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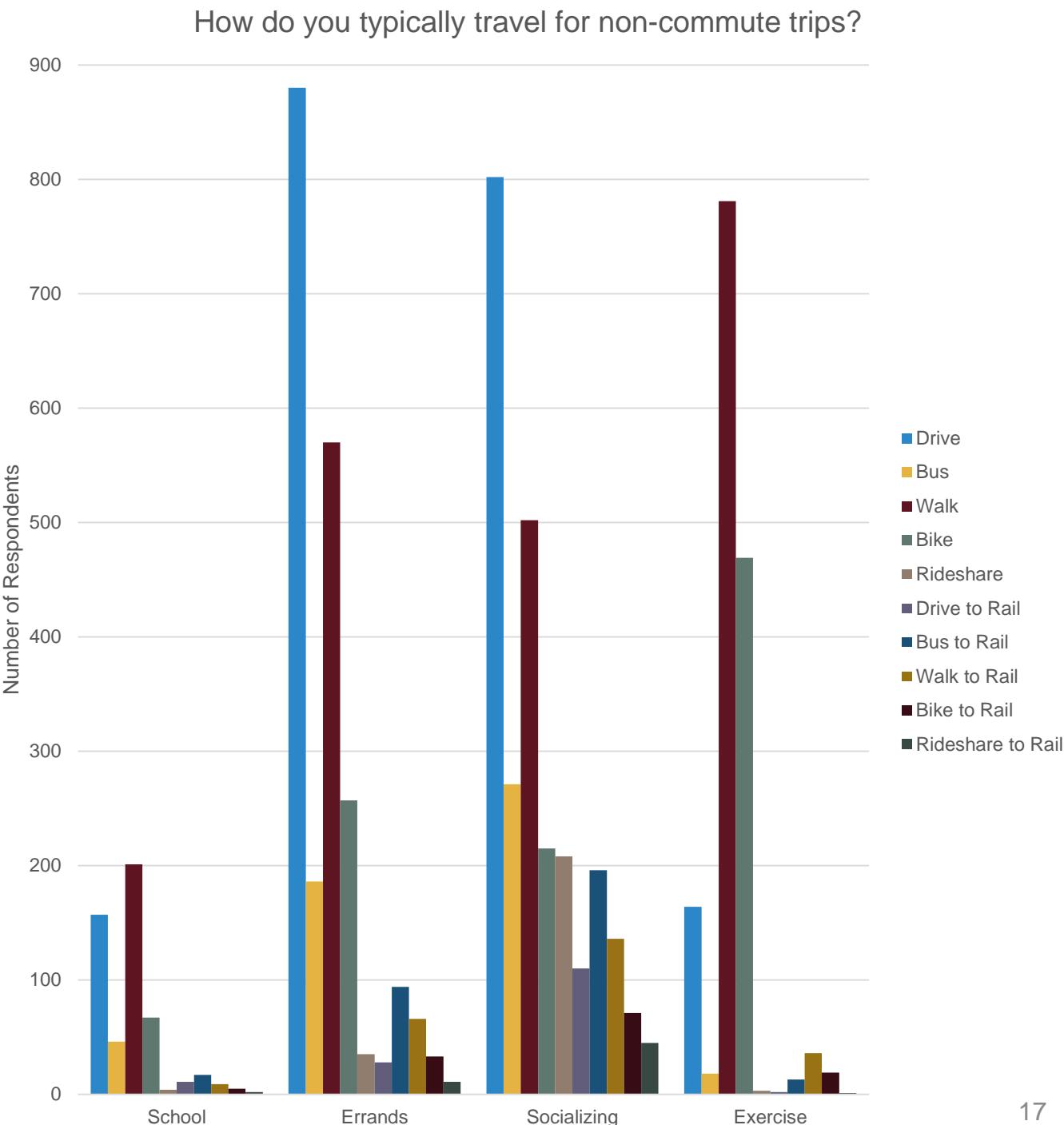
People Would Prefer to Walk or Bike More in the Future

- Biking is the preferred mode of getting to work

- Overall, people would like to walk or bike more, but maintain driving trips for errands and socializing

If you were to change how you travel in the future, how would you most prefer to get around Arlington and the region?
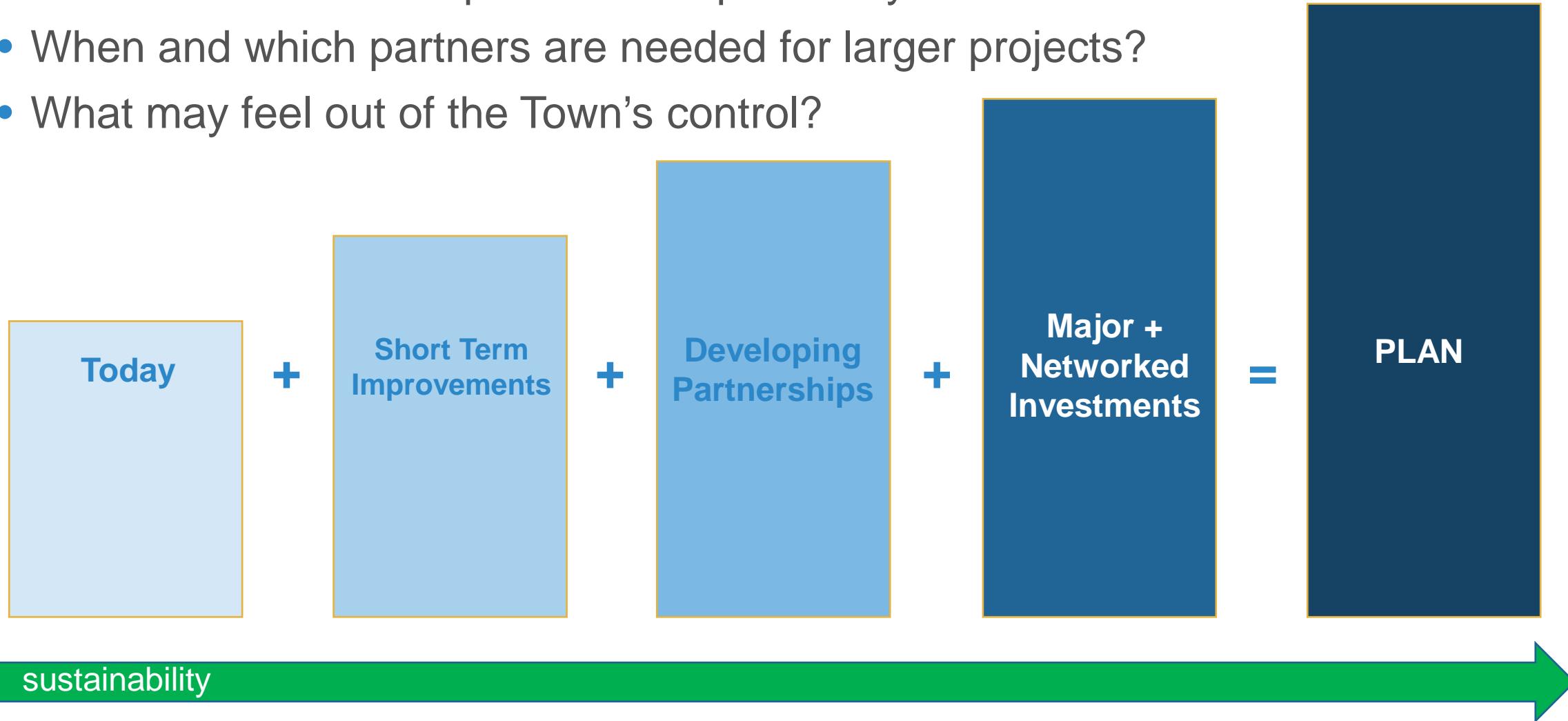
Number of Respondents

Legend: Drive, Bus, Walk, Bike, Rideshare, Drive to Rail, Bus to Rail, Walk to Rail, Bike to Rail, Rideshare to Rail

Categories: Work, School, Errands, Socializing, Exercise

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What is coming up?

Next Steps

Draft Strategies: Understanding frameworks

- What the Town can implement independently.
- When and which partners are needed for larger projects?
- What may feel out of the Town's control?

Today + Short Term Improvements + Developing Partnerships + Major + Networked Investments = PLAN

sustainability →

Final Action Plan:
A road map that tracks progress

THE MEASURES Five primary metrics will measure progress toward each of the five values	CRASHES Counts and analysis of collisions to measure progress towards making safer travel	TRAVEL TIME Surveys of Newtonians' commutes and other trips to gauge the value of technological improvements to signals, buses, etc.	TRIPS Volumes of use of every mode to track shifts from driving to other modes	NEIGHBORHOOD VITALITY Regular surveys of Newtonians' satisfaction with the quality of their travels	VEHICLE OWNERSHIP Recording the amount of cars and miles traveled to track greenhouse gas reductions
THE BASELINE Where the city stands today:	1,451*	26 minutes†	73% Driving 13% Transit 4% Walking 1% Biking ‡	TBD	1.3 cars per household**
THE TARGETS:	0	<26 minutes	53% Driving 23% Transit 9% Walking 6% Biking	TBD	1 car per household

Timeline - 2020
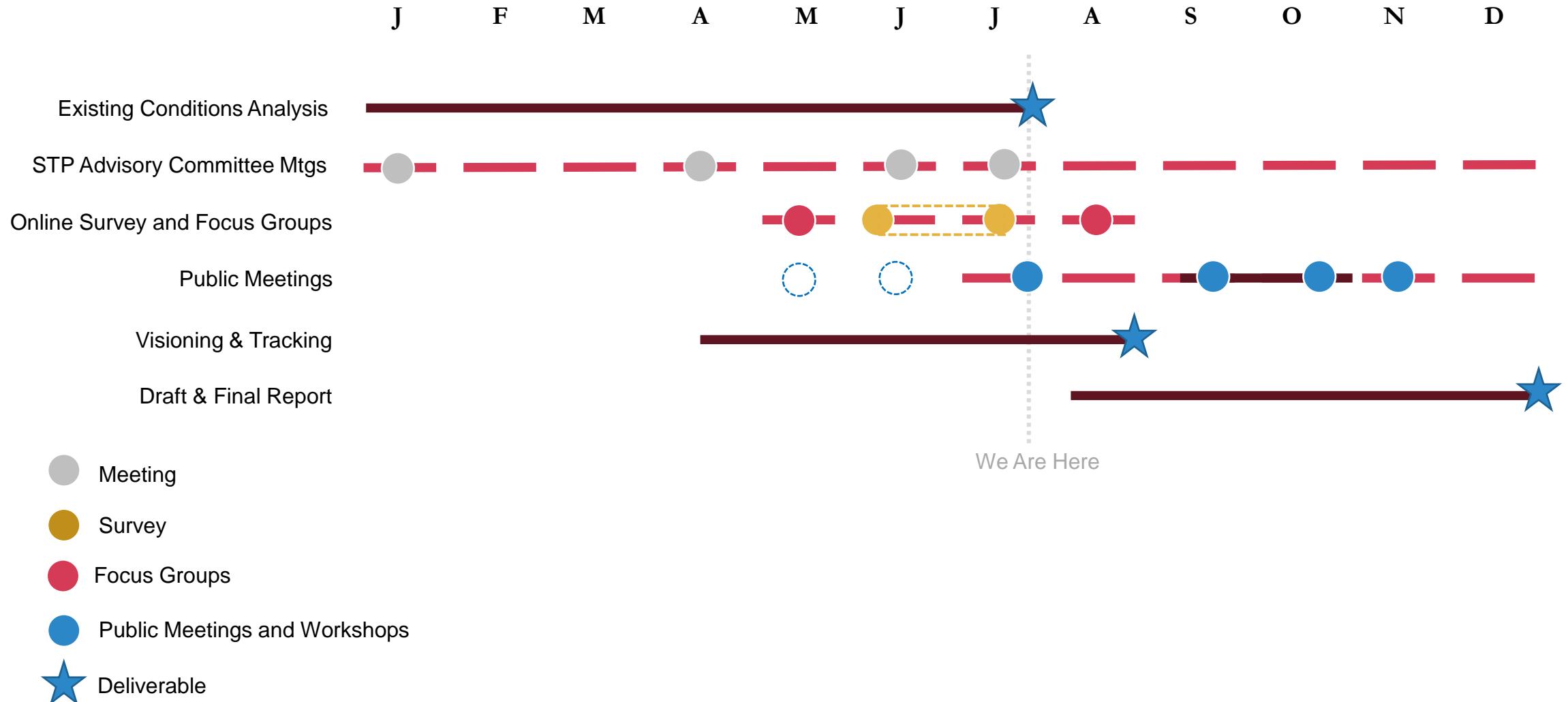
Question & Answer Period

Breakout Groups

Breakout Groups Questions

- The following five goals were viewed as top priorities in the survey:
  - Consider the need of diverse populations and people of all ages
  - Prioritizes a pedestrian and walk-friendly environment
  - Focus on improved transit connections and travel times
  - Prioritizes safety for all people no matter how they travel
  - Enhance access to and use of local transit services

- Do you agree with these top goals for the transportation system? Would you add or remove any of these goals and why?

- If you could wave a magic wand and change something about transportation in Arlington, what would you change?

- What is standing in the way of making changes about transportation and what are some ways to make them happen?

Breakout Groups

Report Out and Discussion